

## XXIV.—INTESTINAL PARASITES OF THE PYTHON.

A python which had seized and devoured a dog was recently shot near Kotagiri (Nilgiris) by a Mr. J. Beaver.

When the python was cut open, the stomach bag was found to hold the dog, a certain amount of saliva, and between three and four hundred red-brown worms about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch long and about  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch thick. The worms were crawling over the dog's body, and were also feeding on the lips, round the eyes, ears, and the soft parts of the underside. Except for the dog, and the worms, and a certain amount of saliva, the stomach bag was very clean. The python was shot three days after taking the dog.

Is the presence of these worms in pythons usual, and do they play a part in the python's digestive functions?

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[In the absence of specimens it is not possible to fix the identity of the worms. Various intestinal parasites have been found in pythons. A cestode or tape worm (*Bothridium pythonis*) is found in great numbers in the intestine. They are sometimes free and sometimes attached to the mucous membrane. Another cestode (*Solenophorus megacephalus*) also inhabits the intestine of this snake. A nematode or round worm (*Ascaris attenuata*) has also been discovered in the intestines. These intestinal parasites are most detrimental to the health of their hosts. Ferguson says that once all the pythons in one of the cages in the Trivandrum Garden died and a post mortem examination revealed that they were found to be infested with nematodes that had perforated the walls of the stomach and intestines.—EDS.]

XXV.—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE COMMON  
CHAMAELEON (*CHAMAELEON CALCARATUS*) IN GUJARAT.

On August 18th., I got a *Chamaeleon calcaratus*, caught two miles south of Ahmedabad, feeding on ground in long grass at the root of a Cactus hedge. This is noteworthy, as according to Boulenger (F.B.I., *Reptilia*, 232), the species is known to occur in 'wooded districts of peninsular India, south of the Gangetic plain and Ceylon'. Ahmedabad cannot boast of any woods though there are numerous trees in this place.